

WHAT WELL DRESSED WOMEN WEAR

BY Anne Rittenhouse

MIXTURE OF FIRST EMPIRE AND MID-VICTORIAN RULES IN FASHIONS

It is a long, long leap from the bazaar of Delhi to the family album of the mid-Victorian era. But the dress designers dart from epoch to epoch with a speed that would make the man who wore the seven-league boots appear like a tortoise. We have been putting ruses around the fairy tales in all achievements these days, and the apparel people have not been left in the background.

The startling feat in connection with this leaping from century to century is that the world of women are carried along with the designers, as though the magic carpet of the Arabian was used for transportation. Sartorially speaking, we stand one day among the minarets of Persia, the next among the steppes of Russia, then we lightly pass into the depths of India, again we play with the peoples of Nippon, back we come to Alexandria in the Egypt of Aphrodite and Thais, and suddenly, without warning, we are landed in England in the days of prudery under its strictest queen.

Do we grow dizzy? Not at all. The American is not given to such weakness. She adores these magical carpet flights. She is never so happy as when bending her energies to stemming some current, although it may be mental or moral, instead of physical.

She is a born globe trotter, having easily wrested that title from an Englishman that never really deserved it. For English people only trotted to their own possessions, whereas the American man and woman in every class of life and finances trots about the world whenever there is a dollar to be made. The necessities of life. Moving about is our national characteristic. Then why should we not rejoice in the leaping from land to land, from epoch to epoch in dress? Why not rejoice in these personally conducted tours into the apparel of other days and other minds?

Can Modern Women Be Demure?

Now, the question is, how will the woman of the hour with her clothes fashioned on those of Cossacks, or geisha girls, or temple dancers, or the Egyptian Aphrodite, or the harem, or the princesses of old Baghdad under the adventurous Haroun al Raschid, look in the clothes fashioned on the family album, as copies of daguerreotypes, as relics of civil war times? Nothing daring, nothing really artistic, no brilliant color schemes, no alluring display of the figure there!

Such clothes, along with all the other decorative arts, were reduced to mediocrity those days through the influence of the mental attitude of one woman—the queen of England.

We owe much to the demureness of William Morris through that period. He only gave his name to a chair, but it was he who made the Nottingham lace curtain, the what-not, the lambrequin, wax flowers under glass covers, frying pans turned into wall decorations decked with ribbons, the chromo, the mania for senseless and ugly decoration, a period of artistic shame, and banished it from the minds of the enlightened.

Along with such decorative atrocities were the ugly clothes of that period. It is these that the designers propose to inaugurate into the spring styles, as they tried to do last spring, and were defeated by the last and final judges—the women who must wear the clothes.

No fashion, or series of fashions, ever existed outside the ateliers of the dressmakers against the wishes of the women. There are too many samples of this to cite them here. The narrow skirt is the most striking. No group of designers could force that fashion out of existence, and with their almost united struggles for a year it looks as though we would continue on our narrow path throughout the spring. The leading question asked on every side is: Can women be again demure? Is there any possibility of a mental and decorative return to the mid-Victorian era? Can women look as though they had the habit of mind of a Jane Austen heroine? For it was that type of mental and moral demureness that the English queen impressed upon her subjects through the power of her personality and spread the doctrine through America. The present queen has the same turn of mind, but not the same power, and her influence on clothes, much as it was discussed, has been nil.

Queen Not a Dictator.

In that connection I had repeated to me a letter by its recipient, who was one of the queen's attendants at the Indian durbars, which threw an interesting light on her much-discussed attitude toward modern dress. This lady is an American who, having married an Englishman of high position, was chosen in India to attend the English queen during the festivities among a large number also chosen for official reasons.

All of these ladies were disturbed about their costumes while in attendance, because even Indian gossip was rife as to what Queen Mary would not allow in dress. The American, to get

GOWNS WE SHALL WEAR IN SPRING AT THE WILL OF PARIS



THE DESIGNS FOR THE GOWNS SKETCHED WERE SENT DIRECT FROM PARIS. ON THE RIGHT IS A LINGERIE FROCK TRIMMED WITH LACE AND TUCKS, AND ON THE LEFT IS A FROCK OF BLUE SILK, WITH BLACK BRAIDING AND A BLACK VELVET BELT. IN THE CENTER IS A SMART LITTLE HAT OF BROWN STRAW WITH VELVET STREAMERS OF THE SAME SHADE, AND A CROWN OF PINK ROSES.

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the question, wrote directly to the mistress of robes, asking what kind of clothes the queen desired on her attendants.

The mistress of robes responded in the queen's name in a most cordial letter, saying that her majesty would not think of laying down laws for the clothes of those who were to surround her. That, although she had certain

fixed ideas concerning her own method of dressing, and would not accept certain established fashions, she did not wish to impose them on her entourage.

She felt quite sure that all of those ladies who followed by their own admirable taste in dressing, and would leave their choice of costumes to them. Such a statement, the princess of the Victorian clothes was relaxed.

American colony which had grown up around the queen's alleged criticism of those in her entourage.

Victoria was not so lenient. She ruled with a mighty scepter. Her word was law in the heyday of her reign. It was when her son became a greater social power than she was that the strictness, the prudery of the Victorian clothes was relaxed.

This bit of narrative, however, does not throw light on the pressing question of today as to the versatility of the woman of the hour in making herself appear like a daguerreotype. Can she do it? Of course she can.

No one who has studied her lightning-like changes during the last decade should doubt her for a moment. She is all things in conjunction with

and eggs to a powder, rub smooth with cream and spread on thin slices of buttered bread.

Turkish Coffee.

Turkish coffee is served now oftener than tea in the studios, where men and women gather for a chat and rest. It is also a feature at bachelor dinners and impromptu suppers, the men taking more kindly to it than a brew of tea. To make the real Turkish coffee a takum or Turkish coffee pot is essential, and so popular have these become that they can now be obtained in ordinary housefurnishing shops as well as in the Syrian or other oriental shops.

The blend of coffee must be rich and smooth. It should also be freshly roasted. Put into the jehvah a small teaspoonful each of coffee and sugar for each cup to be served. Pour over this enough cold water to fill the cups, allowing a little extra for the boiling away. Now comes the boiling, which is the critical point. The real Turkish coffee has to be brought just to the boil three times, each time a thick cream appearing on the top of the pot. The jehvah is set over the alcohol flame, the coffee or coffee maker holding on to the end of the long handle, slightly to the left to swing back to the figure when the arms are in repose. It is the first aid to the woman who has not a well filled or a well formed back.

Nothing in this box of tricks belongs to the Victorian era. Perish the thought. These alluring methods belong to an older and more alluring epoch in dress. But they have a warm welcome in this day, because they spell beauty and grace.

A Mixture of the Empire.

There is no explanation for the apparent truth that the fashions of the first empire are to be generously sprinkled in with those of the mid-Victorian era. Queen mixture, isn't it? Josephine and Victoria, for they are sisters, can from epoch to epoch without fear, they are, also, no respecters of persons, and they have neither shame nor resistance in coupling pashan with Puritan, Thais with a Jane Austen heroine, monk and Cossack, crusader and the lion.

What is history to them but a chance to glean dress inspiration? They are bees in that they care not for the name or pedigree of the flower so long as it gives honey.

The tunic topping a moderately narrow skirt has nothing to do with any of revived fashions. It is a modern creation in which women are far more interested than in an Alexandrian sleeve or a Victorian basque, for they have tunics, they like tunics, and they are ardently desirous of knowing whether or not there are still to be tunics.

The answer to that all-important question is, yes. Whether fashion changes abruptly after all the first Paris models are shown is not easy to tell. But the first spring showings have tunics in various forms. They serve to give fullness to the skirt. Some are pleated at the sides and back, others are gathered and just escape the hem of the undergarment, a trick that Jenny employed very smartly last October.

There are also pleated skirts with the pleats stitched down to the knees. There are evening skirts that not only have ruffles like Worth is showing, but panniers like Cheruit made fashionable two springs ago. There is not always a disposition shown to keep the fulness flat at the rather high waist line, but there is danger when one does not observe this law of grace

Renovating Your Hat.

A QUICK and effective way to clean white felt hats is to make a paste of flour and gasoline, rub it into the hat and hang in the air. When dry it will look just like new, with all dust and finger marks gone.

To clean white plumes, take one quart of gasoline and pour it into two parts, just a little more in one part than in the other. Take one cup of flour and mix with the larger part, then shake the plume thoroughly in this part and rinse it in the smaller part. Shake well in the air to dry and to destroy the odor of the gasoline. The tinsel braids and ribbons that are so much used at present can be cleaned or refreshed by washing them with a toothbrush that has been dipped first in soda and then in ammonia.

A good way to clean children's bonnets made from Angora wool is to dust them with talcum powder through them, rubbing them in the hands as it washes. Lay them away for half a day, then remove the traces of powder by shaking. They will be as white and fluffy as when new.

To Set Stencil Colors.

If you will press a hot flatiron over a pattern that has been stenciled, you will find that it will make the color fast so that it cannot be washed out when the fabric is laundered. If you have mixed too much oil with the paint and smeared the fabric, place a blotter over the smear and press with a hot flatiron. The oil will have been absorbed when the blotter is lifted so that it is not noticeable.

Four Jet Ornaments.

VERY pretty slipper rosettes may be made of a pair of cut-jet buttons the size of a nickel, surrounded by a ruffle of black velvet ribbon one inch wide. On a slightly worn pair of patent leather shoes they will work wonders. To clean the jet, rub it with a cloth wet in equal parts of water and alcohol, and dry with a soft cloth. Polish cut steel by applying powdered pumice stone, slightly moist, with a brush or soft rag.

JEWELLED ROSE TRIMMING

NEW MODEL FROM PARIS. A JEWELLED EVENING GOWN, WITH A ROSE DESIGN WORKED ON THE FRONT.

EMMA PADDOCK TELFORD.

SUIT FROM PARIS OPENINGS



GRAY CORDUROY SUIT, WITH VERT OF GREEN AND GRAY PLAID. SKETCH SENT FROM PARIS OF SUIT TO BE SHOWN AT OPENINGS.

FOR THE AFTERNOON TEA

SUNDAY MENU.

BREAKFAST.

Stewed Apples. Cereal.

Boiled Salt Mackerel.

Butter.

Coffee.

DINNER.

Cream of Tomato Soup. Croutons.

Homemade Pickles. Celery.

Roast of Veal with Dressing.

Strawberry Jelly.

Mashed Potatoes. Escaloped Onions.

Tomato Jelly.

Rice with Raisin Pudding.

Coffee.

SUPPER.

Chicken Salad (Made Largely of Veal).

Trained Potatoes.

Sliced Bananas. Fruit. Gingerbread.

Tea.

THE English custom of "serving tea" in the late afternoon to family and callers has grown in popularity in this country, evidently stimulated by the increased automobile travel, which naturally makes a "hot bite" in cold weather or a cold drink on a hot day an appreciated addition to the afternoon's pleasure.

As these afternoon affairs are quite informal, a profusion of eatables is not only considered unnecessary, but vulgar and an attempt at ostentation. At a little afternoon country-style "bridge" the other day, where the autos brought grandmothers who knitted on red Cross "mufflers," while the younger folk played cards—coffee deliciously hot and fragrant took the place of tea, while little old-fashioned crullers, tender, delicately browned and rolled while hot in sugar accompanied the coffee. The hostess herself served the refreshments, assisted by a little niece.

The card tables received their doily covers and the eatables were brought in from the kitchen and dining room and frequently replenished. The "caterer's assistant," a light, portable, in-laid tripod stand, with three shelves and a handle coming up from the top to lift it by, is a great convenience in serving refreshments for the afternoon tea. On the shelves may be carried plates of cakes, sandwiches, nuts, olives

or bonbons and passed to each guest that they may help themselves. In case of a larger or more formal party, no attempt is made to seat the party unless they wish to remain at their card tables. On the serving table in the dining room should be placed at one or both ends a silver, copper or brass serving tray, from which the drinkables—tea, hot or cold, coffee, chocolate or some other cold cup—are respectively dispensed by some friends of the hostess. The big Russian samovars of copper are very popular—those who have a genuine old specimen still burning charcoal for its heating, while modern ones are run by electricity or alcohol.

On the sides of the table are piles of plates, with spoons or forks grouped near, and napkins, together with small dishes of bonbons, suited nuts, candied fruits and plates of small cakes. Plates of sandwiches delicately made and in variety may be here or on a side table. If punch or other iced drinks are to be served, they may be on a small or side table, with a girl friend presiding.

Among the sandwiches, canapés, cakes and confections suited to light entertaining are the following:

For Afternoon Teas.

A new wrinkle at afternoon teas is the service of crackers or wafers spread with orange or other marmalade, put together sandwich fashion and heated in the oven just long enough to allow the flavor of the fruit to permeate the cracker and soften it slightly.

Hickory Nut Macaroons.

To one whole egg beaten light, add one cup of sugar and beat well. Add two tablespoonfuls of flour and one cup of nut meats chopped fine. Grease reversed tins, dust with flour, drop the macaroons on by spoonfuls and bake twenty minutes in a moderate oven.

Chocolate Chips.

Beat a half cup of butter to a cream, add gradually a cup of granulated sugar and beat thoroughly. Have ready two eggs beaten without separating whites and yolks, add to the butter and sugar mixture, together with four tablespoonfuls of melted cocoa, a teaspoonful of vanilla and a cup of sifted flour. Pour thin layers of this batter into narrow, well greased

Hot Cheese Canapés.

Take circles or strips of Vienna bread, spread lightly with butter, grace a little cheese over them, sprinkle on top a little cayenne pepper and salt and put in oven. Cook five minutes.

Cheese and Tomato Canapés.

Cut white bread in rounds, butter and lay on a slice of tomato, spread with deviled ham, grated cheese over all and season with paprika. Put in oven until cheese melts—about five minutes.

Sardine Sandwiches.

Take the sardines carefully from their box, split open, remove bones, heads and tails. Have ready slices of buttered bread, place sardines over one slice. Squeeze lemon juice over and cover with another slice, pressing closely together. Cut in thin narrow strips.

Berlin Sandwiches.

Have ready lightly buttered slices of bread and spread between each couple a wafer thin slice of boiled ham, topped by almost as thin a slice of hard-boiled egg. Spread lightly with mayonnaise and press the slices together.

Haddie Sandwiches.

One cup of cooked flounder haddie freed from bone and skin, the yolks of six hard-boiled eggs, and a half cup of cream whipped stiff. Pound the fish

and bake in a quick oven. As soon as done, brush over lightly with slightly beaten egg and cut into strips.

Honey Macaroons.

Beat the yolks of three eggs until thickened, add a cup of strained honey and beat again. Now stir in a cup and a half of sifted flour, a cup of chopped nut meats and lastly fold in the stiffly whipped whites of three eggs. Drop from a spoon into a paper lined pan and bake in a moderate oven ten or twelve minutes.

Stuffed Prunes.

Soak large prunes in cold water until soft enough to pit. Slit with a pen-knife on one side, remove the pit and fill each prune with a half date, chopped walnut meat and a quarter-spoonful of powdered sugar. Press into shape, roll in granulated sugar and put away a week to ripen. These make a nice inexpensive confection.

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